Page 1 of 17

### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. Plaintiff brings this action against Principia Biopharma Inc. ("Principia" or the "Company") and the members of its Board of Directors (the "Board" or the "Individual Defendants") for their violations of Sections 14(e) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 78n(e), 78t(a), and to enjoin the expiration of a tender offer (the "Tender Offer") on a proposed transaction, pursuant to which Principia will be acquired by Sanofi ("Sanofi"), through Sanofi's wholly-owned subsidiaries Aventis Inc. ("Aventis") and Kortex Acquisition Corp. ("Purchaser") (the "Proposed Transaction").
- 2. On August 17, 2020, Principia and Sanofi issued a joint press release announcing that they had entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the "Merger Agreement") dated August 16, 2020 to sell Principia to Sanofi. Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, Sanofi will acquire all outstanding shares of Principia for \$100.00 in cash per share of Principia common stock (the "Offer Price"). Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, Purchaser commenced the Tender Offer on August 28, 2020. The Tender Offer is scheduled to expire at one minute after 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on September 25, 2020. The Proposed Transaction is valued at approximately \$3.85 billion.
- 3. On August 28, 2020, Principia filed a Solicitation/Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 (the "Recommendation Statement") with the SEC. The Recommendation Statement, which recommends that Principia stockholders tender their shares in favor of the Proposed Transaction, omits or misrepresents material information concerning, among other things: (i) Principia management's financial projections, relied upon by the Company's financial advisors, Centerview Partners LLC ("Centerview") and BofA Securities, Inc. ("BofA"), in their financial analyses; (ii) the data and inputs underlying the financial valuation analyses that support the fairness opinions provided by Centerview and BofA; and (iii) Company insiders' potential conflicts of interest. Defendants authorized the issuance of the false and misleading Recommendation Statement

in violation of Sections 14(e) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

4. In short, the Proposed Transaction will unlawfully divest Principia's public stockholders of the Company's valuable assets without fully disclosing all material information concerning the Proposed Transaction to Company stockholders. To remedy defendants' Exchange Act violations, Plaintiff seeks to enjoin the expiration of the Tender Offer unless and until such problems are remedied.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 5. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims asserted herein for violations of Sections 14(e) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act pursuant to Section 27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aa, and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question jurisdiction).
- 6. This Court has jurisdiction over the defendants because each defendant is either a corporation that conducts business in and maintains operations within this District, or is an individual with sufficient minimum contacts with this District so as to make the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
- 7. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Plaintiff's claims arose in this District, where a substantial portion of the actionable conduct took place, where most of the documents are electronically stored, and where the evidence exists. Principia is incorporated in Delaware and is headquartered in this District. Moreover, each of the Individual Defendants, as Company officers or directors, either resides in this District or has extensive contacts within this District.

### **PARTIES**

8. Plaintiff is, and has been at all times relevant hereto, a continuous stockholder of Principia.

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- 9. Defendant Principia is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices located at 220 East Grand Avenue, South San Francisco, California 94080. Principia is a late-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing novel therapies for immune-mediated diseases. Principia's common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "PRNB."
- 10. Defendant Dan Becker ("Becker") has been a director of the Company since January2017.
- 11. Defendant Patrick Machado ("Machado") has been a director of the Company since June 2019.
- 12. Defendant Alan B. Colowick ("Colowick") has served as Chair of the Board since April 2019 and as a director of the Company since February 2017. Defendant Colowick also served as Executive Chair of the Company from February 2017 to April 2019.
- 13. Defendant Simeon George ("George") has been a director of the Company since February 2011.
- 14. Defendant Shawn Tomasello ("Tomasello") has been a director of the Company since August 2019.
- 15. Defendant Martin Babler ("Babler") has served as Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of the Company since April 2011 and as President and a director of the Company since April 2019.
  - 16. Defendant Shao-Lee Lin ("Lin") has been a director of the Company since April 2019.
- 17. Defendants identified in paragraphs 10 to 16 are collectively referred to herein as the "Board" or the "Individual Defendants."

#### **OTHER RELEVANT ENTITIES**

18. Sanofi is a French corporation and a global biopharmaceutical company focused on human health through the manufacture of vaccines and other treatments. Sanofi's common stock is

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traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the ticker symbol "SNY."

- 19. Aventis is a Delaware corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Sanofi.
- 20. Purchaser is a Delaware corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Aventis.

#### SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

### **Company Background**

- 21. Principia is a late-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing novel therapies for immune-mediated diseases. The Company's proprietary Tailored Covalency platform enables design and development of reversible covalent and irreversible covalent, small molecule inhibitors with potencies and selectivities that Principia believes will rival injectable biologics, but with the convenience of an oral or topical therapy.
- 22. The Company's overall portfolio includes rilzabrutinib, PRN2246/SAR442168, PRN473 Topical, PRN1371 and an oral immunoproteasome inhibitor program. The Company retains full, worldwide rights to rilzabrutinib, PRN473 Topical, PRN1371 and its oral immunoproteasome inhibitor program, and has an ongoing collaboration with Sanofi for PRN2246/SAR442168.
- 23. Principia's lead candidate, rilzabrutinib, a wholly owned Bruton Tyrosine Kinase ("BTK") inhibitor, is in a Phase 3 trial for the treatment of pemphigus (pemphigus vulgaris ("PV") and pemphigus foliaceus ("PF")), and in a Phase 1/2 trial for the treatment of Immune Thrombocytopenia ("ITP"). In addition, Principia anticipates initiating a Phase 2 trial of rilzabrutinib for the treatment of IgG4-Related Disease ("RD").
- 24. On August 6, 2020, the Company announced its second quarter 2020 financial results and key highlights, reporting \$50 million in collaboration revenue associated with the Company's partnership agreement with Sanofi, compared with \$30 million in the comparable quarter in 2019. Net income for the quarter was \$10.8 million compared to net income of \$7.1 million for the same period in 2019. Key operational highlights for the six-month and year-to-date period included:

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- Announcing full data set from the Rilzabrutinib Phase 2 Part B pemphigus BELIEVE PV trial, including results which demonstrate a positive risk/benefit profile while decreasing daily corticosteroid usage. Enrollment of the PEGASUS Phase 3 trial continues to be on target.
- Announcing updated positive data from an ongoing Rilzabrutinib (for the treatment of immune thrombocytopenia) Phase 1/2 trial in 47 heavily pre-treated patients during the virtual session of the European Hematology Association, with interim results demonstrating rilzabrutinib reaches primary endpoint in 50 percent of patients treated > 12 weeks with 400 mg twice-daily dose; demonstrated fast onset and durable responses. The Company was granted orphan drug designation by the European Commission (EC), and anticipates initiating a pivotal Phase 3 trial by the end of 2020.
- Announcing the expansion of development of rilzabrutinib into IgG4-RD. Company anticipates initiating a Phase 2 trial in the second half of 2020.
- Announcing expansion of the BTK franchise with PRN473 Topical for the treatment of immune mediated diseases of the skin. Principia initiated two Phase 1 trials in Australia -- a single ascending dose/multiple dose trial in healthy volunteers and a challenge study. The Company anticipates Phase 1 single ascending dose/multiple dose trial results in the second half of 2020.

### **The Proposed Transaction**

25. On August 17, 2020, Principia and Sanofi issued a joint press release announcing the Proposed Transaction. The press release stated, in relevant part:

PARIS and SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. - August 17, 2020 - Sanofi and Principia Biopharma Inc. (NASDAQ: PRNB), a late-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing treatments for immune-mediated diseases, entered into a definitive agreement under which Sanofi will acquire all of the outstanding shares of Principia for \$100 per share in cash, which represents an aggregate equity value of approximately \$3.68 billion (on a fully diluted basis). The Sanofi and Principia Boards of Directors unanimously approved the transaction.

"This acquisition advances our ongoing R&D transformation to accelerate development of the most promising medicines that will address significant patient needs," said Paul Hudson, Sanofi Chief Executive Officer. "The addition of multiple BTK inhibitors to our pipeline demonstrates our commitment to strategic product acquisitions in our priority therapeutic areas. Full ownership of our brain-penetrant BTK inhibitor '168 removes complexities for this priority development program and simplifies future commercialization."

"The Phase 2b data in relapsing multiple sclerosis showed the strong potential of '168 to address disability and disease progression, and triggered the start of Phase 3 studies

across the full spectrum of MS. Through this acquisition, we will be able to expand and accelerate development of BTK inhibitors across multiple indications. Both '168 and rilzabrutinib, have 'pipeline in a product' potential, and we look forward to unlocking their full treatment benefits across an array of diseases," said John Reed, M.D., Ph.D., Global Head of Research & Development at Sanofi.

"Principia's successful design and development of a whole portfolio of BTK inhibitors for immunology is aimed to transform the treatment for patients with immune-mediated diseases. By combining with Sanofi, we will bring significant resources to expand and accelerate the potential benefits of these therapies. The benefit of developing several BTK inhibitors will allow us to target specific organ systems for optimal patient benefit. The merger will provide global resources to get these novel therapies to patients faster," said Martin Babler, President and CEO at Principia Biopharma.

Principia's Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitors add to Sanofi's efforts to accelerate and build a portfolio of the next generation of transformative treatments for autoimmune diseases. BTK is present in the signaling pathways of key innate and adaptive cell types of the immune system. Being able to block or disrupt these signaling processes can help in stopping inflammation and tissue destruction related to autoimmune diseases and target some of the underlying pathophysiology.

- BTK inhibitor '168: In a Phase 2b study in patients with multiple sclerosis, '168 reduced Gd-enhancing T1 hyperintense lesions by 85% compared to placebo. In June, Sanofi announced the first multiple sclerosis patient was enrolled in the Phase 3 program for the BTK inhibitor, comprising four pivotal clinical trials across the disease spectrum. The Principia acquisition will provide an opportunity to expand the development program to evaluate indications beyond central nervous system diseases.
- **Rilzabrutinib**: This oral BTK inhibitor is currently being evaluated in a Phase 3 program for patients with moderate to severe pemphigus, a rare, debilitating autoimmune disease that causes blistering of the skin and mucous membranes. A Phase 3 program for immune thrombocytopenia, a disease that causes high risk for bleeding events, is expected to be initiated by the end of 2020, assuming no COVID-19 related impact. The company also has an ongoing Phase 2 program for IgG4-related diseases, which is driven by chronic inflammation, immune cell infiltration, and fibrosis within organs that can lead to severe morbidity.
- **PRN473 Topical**: This BTK inhibitor is a topical agent currently in Phase 1 trials and is being developed for immune-mediated diseases that could benefit from localized application to the skin.

The Principia BTK inhibitor franchise is based on its proprietary Tailored Covalency® platform that has generated potential best-in-class clinical candidates. The platform allows the design of both reversible covalent and irreversible covalent small molecule

inhibitors that are more selective with less off-target effects. The optimized target residence time has potential to deliver a desired efficacy with a stronger safety profile.

In 2017, Sanofi formed a collaboration with Principia under which Principia granted Sanofi an exclusive, worldwide license to develop and commercialize BTK inhibitor '168 in multiple sclerosis and other central nervous system diseases.

#### **Transaction Terms**

Under the terms of the merger agreement, Sanofi will commence a cash tender offer to acquire all outstanding shares of Principia common stock for \$100 per share in cash for a total enterprise value of approximately \$3.36 billion.

The consummation of the tender offer is subject to customary closing conditions, including the tender of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of Principia common stock, the expiration or termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, and other customary conditions. Following the successful completion of the tender offer, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sanofi will merge with Principia and the outstanding Principia shares not tendered in the tender offer will be converted into the right to receive the same \$100 per share in cash paid in the tender offer. The tender offer is expected to commence later this month. Sanofi plans to finance the transaction with cash on hand. Subject to the satisfaction or waiver of customary closing conditions, Sanofi expects to complete the acquisition in the fourth quarter of 2020.

### **Insiders' Interests in the Proposed Transaction**

- 28. Principia insiders are the primary beneficiaries of the Proposed Transaction, not the Company's public stockholders. The Board and the Company's executive officers are conflicted because they will have secured unique benefits for themselves from the Proposed Transaction not available to Plaintiff and the public stockholders of Principia.
- 29. Company insiders stand to reap substantial financial benefits for securing the deal with Sanofi. The following table sets forth the cash payments the Company's executive officers and directors will receive in connection with tendering their otherwise illiquid shares in the Tender Offer:

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Name of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned		h Value of Shares neficially Owned
Executive Officers			
Martin Babler, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director (1)	812,845	\$	81,284,500
David Goldstein, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer (2)	206,606	\$	20,660,600
Dolca Thomas, M.D., Chief Medical Officer (3)	90,478	S	9,047,800
Christopher Y. Chai, Chief Financial Officer (4)	233,986	\$	23,398,600
Roy Hardiman, Chief Business Officer (5)	203,980	\$	20,398,000
Stefani Wolff, Chief Development Officer (6)	140,429	\$	14,042,900
Directors			
Alan B. Colowick, M.D., M.P.H., Chair of the Board (7)	75,595	\$	7,559,500
Dan Becker, M.D., Ph.D., Director (8)	695,471	\$	69,547,100
Simeon George, M.D., M.B.A., Director (9)	3,039,349	\$	303,934,900
Shao-Lee Lin, M.D., Ph.D., Director (10)	23,890	\$	2,389,000
Patrick Machado, Director (11)	22,753	\$	2,275,300
Shawn Tomasello, Director (12)	10,806	\$	1,080,600
All of our current directors and executive officers as a group (12 persons) (13)	5,556,188	\$	555,618,800

30. Further, upon consummation of the Proposed Transaction, all vested and unvested Company options will be converted into the right to receive cash payments, as set forth in the following table:

		Options .	Unvested In-the-Money Options									
Name	Number of Shares Underlying Vested In-the- Money Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price Per Share			Cash Spread Value of Vested In-the- Money Options	Number of Shares Underlying Unvested In-the- Money Options		Weighted Average Exercise Price Per Share		Cash Spread Value of Univested In-the- Money Options		Total Option Cash Spread Value
Executive Officers				Т					Т			
Martin Babler, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director	611,785	\$	8.04	\$	56,257,437	436,107	\$	42.18	\$	25,216,199	\$	81,473,635
David Goldstein, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer	137,873	\$	10.82	\$	12,294,844	148,244	\$	45.64	\$	8,059,200	\$	20,354,044
Dolca Thomas, M.D., Chief Medical Officer	77,899	\$	26.95	\$	5,690,678	205,158	\$	37.64	\$	12,793,057	\$	18,483,735
Christopher Y. Chai, Chief Financial Officer	190,151	\$	8.50	\$	17,398,884	128,244	\$	42.26	\$	7,405,400	\$	24,804,284
Roy Hardiman, Chief Business Officer	58,868	\$	18.78	\$	4,781,518	116,685	\$	45.72	\$	6,333,500	S	11,115,018
Stefani Wolff, Chief Development Officer	99,457	\$	15.47	\$	8,406,775	139,501	\$	41.10	\$	8,217,146	\$	16,623,921
Directors												
Alan B. Colowick, M.D., M.P.H., Chair of the Board	64,910	\$	12.88	\$	5,655,252	23,769	\$	29.28	\$	1,680,848	\$	7,336,099
Dan Becker, M.D., Ph.D., Director	25,027	\$	26.16	\$	1,848,100	15,928	\$	41.46	\$	932,362	\$	2,780,462
Simeon George, M.D., M.B.A., Director	25,027	\$	26.16	\$	1,848,100	15,928	\$	41.46	\$	932,362	\$	2,780,462
Shao-Lee Lin, M.D., Ph.D., Director	21,046	\$	32.56	\$	1,419,306	19,909	\$	42.75	\$	1,139,821	S	2,559,127
Patrick Machado, Director	19,908	\$	34.42	\$	1,305,625	21,047	\$	44.30	\$	1,172,422	\$	2,478,046
Shawn Tomasello, Director	7,962	\$	42.33	\$	459,144	22,753	\$	46.49	\$	1,217,443	\$	1,676,586
All of our current directors and executive officers as a group (12 persons)	1,339,913	s	12.41	s	117,365,661	1,293,273	s	41.93	s	75,099,758	s	192,465,419

### The Recommendation Statement Contains Material Misstatements or Omissions

31. The defendants filed a materially incomplete and misleading Recommendation Statement with the SEC and disseminated it to Principia's stockholders. The Recommendation Statement misrepresents or omits material information that is necessary for the Company's stockholders to make an informed decision whether to tender their shares in the Proposed Transaction or seek appraisal.

32. Specifically, as set forth below, the Recommendation Statement fails to provide Company stockholders with material information or provides them with materially misleading information concerning: (i) Principia management's financial projections, relied upon by the Company's financial advisors Centerview and BofA in their financial analyses; (ii) the data and inputs underlying the financial valuation analyses that support the fairness opinions provided by Centerview and BofA; and (iii) Company insiders' potential conflicts of interest.

### Material Omissions Concerning Principia's Financial Projections

- 33. The Recommendation Statement omits material information regarding the Company's financial projections provided by Principia's management and relied upon by Centerview and BofA for their financial analyses.
- 34. For example, with respect to the Company's financial projections, the Recommendation Statement sets forth:

[I]n connection with the review of potential strategic alternatives, including Principia's evaluation of the Merger, our senior management, at the direction of the Board, prepared unaudited, long-range financial projections (collectively, the "Projections"). Our senior management modeled two scenarios, including (a) a case that assumed (i) a loss of patent exclusivity of rilzabrutinib in 2036, (ii) market penetration of rilzabrutinib of 25%-30% across patients with higher unmet need, (iii) a loss of patent exclusivity of PRN2246 in 2038, and (iv) that Principia exercised its Co-Funding Option (collectively, the "Case A Projections") and (b) a case (the "Case B Projections") that included each of the assumptions in the Case A Projections listed above in clauses (i)-(iv), and which case differed primarily from the Case A Projections in relation to rilzabrutinib's addressable patient population, with the Case B Projections reflecting upside assumptions of higher prevalence in certain indications and penetration into earlier lines of therapy.

Principia management provided the Projections to our Board and to Centerview and BofA Securities and, consistent with the view of Principia management that the Case A Projections then reflected the best currently available estimates and good faith judgments of management as to the future financial performance of Principia *on a risk adjusted basis*, our Board directed each of Centerview and BofA Securities, respectively, to use the Case A Projections in connection with the rendering of its fairness opinion to the Board and performing its related financial analyses.

Recommendation Statement at 26 (emphasis added). The Recommendation Statement fails, however,

to disclose the specific risk adjustments that were made to the Company's projections.

- 35. Additionally, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose the un-risked projections so Principia stockholders can evaluate the financial impact the Company's risk-adjustments had on the projections.
- 36. Moreover, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose the underlying line items used to calculate the Company's unlevered free cash flows, including (i) EBIT; (ii) taxes; (iii) depreciation and amortization; (iv) capital expenditures; (v) changes in net working capital; and (vi) stock based compensation.
- 37. The omission of this information renders the statements in the "Certain Financial Projections" section of the Recommendation Statement false and/or materially misleading in contravention of the Exchange Act.

### Material Omissions Concerning Centerview's and BofA's Financial Analyses

- 38. The Recommendation Statement describes Centerview's and BofA's fairness opinions and the various valuation analyses performed in support of their opinions. However, the description of Centerview's and BofA's fairness opinions and analyses fails to include key inputs and assumptions underlying these analyses. Without this information, as described below, Principia's public stockholders are unable to fully understand these analyses and, thus, are unable to determine what weight, if any, to place on Centerview's and BofA's fairness opinions in determining whether to tender their shares in the Proposed Transaction or seek appraisal.
- 39. With respect to Centerview's *Selected Public Company Analysis*, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose the individual multiples and financial metrics for each of the companies analyzed by Centerview.

- 40. With respect to Centerview's *Selected Precedent Transactions Analysis*, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose the individual multiples and financial metrics for each of the transactions analyzed by Centerview.
- 41. With respect to Centerview's *Discounted Cash Flow Analysis*, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose: (i) quantification of the inputs and assumptions underlying the discount rate range of 10% to 12%; (ii) quantification of the present value of the estimated costs associated with additional future equity raises; (iii) the fully diluted outstanding shares as of August 14, 2020, as provided by Company management; and (iv) the basis for assuming that unlevered free cash flows would decline in perpetuity after December 31, 2041 at a rate of free cash flow decline of 75% year over year.
- 42. With respect to BofA's *Analyst Price Target Analysis*, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose the individual price targets observed and the sources thereof.
- 43. With respect to BofA's *Selected Publicly Traded Companies Analysis*, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose the individual multiples and financial metrics for each of the companies analyzed by BofA.
- 44. With respect to BofA's *Selected Precedent Transactions Analysis*, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose the individual multiples and financial metrics for each of the transactions analyzed by BofA.
- 45. With respect to BofA's *Discounted Cash Flow Analysis* ("DCF"), the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose: (i) quantification of the inputs and assumptions underlying the discount rate range of 10% to 12%; (ii) quantification of the estimate of cash proceeds to be received by Principia in connection with a future equity financing assumed to occur in the third quarter of 2020; (iii) quantification of the costs associated with future financing assumed to occur in 2022 and 2024; (iv) the fully diluted outstanding shares utilized in the analysis; and (v) the basis for

assuming that unlevered free cash flows would decline in perpetuity after December 31, 2041 at a rate of free cash flow decline of 75% year over year.

- 46. With respect to BofA's *Wall Street Analysts Price Targets*, the Recommendation Statement fails to disclose the individual price targets observed and the sources thereof.
- 47. The omission of this information renders the statements in the "Summary of Centerview Financial Analysis" and "Opinion of BofA Securities, Inc." sections of the Recommendation Statement false and/or materially misleading in contravention of the Exchange Act.

### Material Omissions Concerning Company Insiders' Potential Conflicts of Interest

- 48. The Recommendation Statement fails to disclose material information concerning the potential conflicts of interest faced by the Company's insiders.
  - 49. For example, the Recommendation Statement sets forth:

It is possible that members of our current management team will enter into new compensation arrangements with the Surviving Corporation. We would expect that any such arrangements with the existing management team would be entered into after the completion of the Offer and would become effective after the Merger is completed, if at all.

- *Id.* at 8. The Recommendation Statement fails, however, to disclose the details of all employment and retention-related discussions and negotiations that occurred between Sanofi and Principia executive officers and directors, including who participated in all such communications, when they occurred and their content. The Recommendation Statement further fails to disclose whether any of Sanofi's proposals or indications of interest mentioned management retention.
- 50. Communications regarding post-transaction employment and merger-related benefits during the negotiation of the underlying transaction must be disclosed to stockholders. This information is necessary for Principia's stockholders to understand potential conflicts of interest of management and the Board, as that information provides illumination concerning motivations that would prevent fiduciaries from acting solely in the best interests of the Company's stockholders.

51. The omission of this information renders the statements in the "Potential for Future Arrangements" and "Background of Offer and Merger" sections of the Recommendation Statement false and/or materially misleading in contravention of the Exchange Act.

52. The Individual Defendants were aware of their duty to disclose the above-referenced omitted information and acted negligently (if not deliberately) in failing to include this information in the Recommendation Statement. Absent disclosure of the foregoing material information prior to the expiration of the Tender Offer, Plaintiff and the other Principia stockholders will be unable to make an informed decision whether to tender their shares in the Proposed Transaction or seek appraisal and are thus threatened with irreparable harm warranting the injunctive relief sought herein.

### **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

#### **COUNT I**

## Claims Against All Defendants for Violations of Section 14(e) of the Exchange Act

- 53. Plaintiff repeats all previous allegations as if set forth in full.
- 54. Defendants violated Section 14(e) of the Exchange Act by issuing the Recommendation Statement in which they made untrue statements of material facts or failed to state all material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading, or engaged in deceptive or manipulative acts or practices, in connection with the Tender Offer commenced in conjunction with the Proposed Transaction.
- 55. Defendants knew that Plaintiff would rely upon their statements in the Recommendation Statement in determining whether to tender his shares pursuant to the Tender Offer commenced in conjunction with the Proposed Transaction.
- 56. As a direct and proximate result of these defendants' unlawful course of conduct in violation of Section 14(e) of the Exchange Act, absent injunctive relief from the Court, Plaintiff has

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sustained and will continue to sustain irreparable injury by being denied the opportunity to make an informed decision in deciding whether or not to tender his shares or seek appraisal.

### **COUNT II**

## Claims Against the Individual Defendants for Violation of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act

- 57. Plaintiff repeats all previous allegations as if set forth in full.
- 58. The Individual Defendants acted as controlling persons of Principia within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act as alleged herein. By virtue of their positions as officers or directors of Principia and participation in or awareness of the Company's operations or intimate knowledge of the false statements contained in the Recommendation Statement filed with the SEC, they had the power to influence and control and did influence and control, directly or indirectly, the decision-making of the Company, including the content and dissemination of the various statements which Plaintiff contends are false and misleading.
- 59. Each of the Individual Defendants was provided with or had unlimited access to copies of the Recommendation Statement and other statements alleged by Plaintiff to be misleading prior to or shortly after these statements were issued and had the ability to prevent the issuance of the statements or cause the statements to be corrected.
- 60. In particular, each of the Individual Defendants had direct and supervisory involvement in the day-to-day operations of the Company, and, therefore, is presumed to have had the power to control or influence the particular transactions giving rise to the securities violations as alleged herein, and exercised the same. The Recommendation Statement at issue contains the unanimous recommendation of each of the Individual Defendants to approve the Proposed Transaction. They were, thus, directly involved in the making of this document.

- 61. In addition, as the Recommendation Statement sets forth at length, and as described herein, the Individual Defendants were each involved in negotiating, reviewing, and approving the Proposed Transaction. The Recommendation Statement purports to describe the various issues and information that they reviewed and considered descriptions which had input from the Individual Defendants.
- 62. By virtue of the foregoing, the Individual Defendants have violated section 20(a) of the Exchange Act.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment and preliminary and permanent relief, including injunctive relief, in his favor on behalf of Principia, and against defendants, as follows:

- A. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining defendants and all persons acting in concert with them from proceeding with, consummating, or closing the Proposed Transaction;
- B. In the event defendants consummate the Proposed Transaction, rescinding it and setting it aside or awarding rescissory damages to Plaintiff;
- C. Awarding Plaintiff the costs of this action, including reasonable allowance for Plaintiff's attorneys' and experts' fees; and
  - D. Granting such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND** Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all claims and issues so triable. Dated: September 4, 2020 WEISSLAW LLP By: <u>/s/ Joel E. Elkins</u> Joel E. Elkins 9107 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 450 Beverly Hills, CA 90210 Telephone: 310/208-2800 Facsimile: 310/209-2348 -and-Richard A. Acocelli 1500 Broadway, 16th Floor New York, NY 10036 Telephone: 212/682-3025 Facsimile: 212/682-3010 Attorneys for Plaintiff - 17 -COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS